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Column One
By
David Courtney

Suez and P.C.C. Before Cabinet

THIS world has need of a Korean cease-fire. The West has need of it as at least a qualified portent of better will on the part of the Communists. The Communists have need of it as a sign that Western objectives are limited. President Truman has asked Russia to show its good intentions by, among other and less reasonable proposals, easing the way to an Austrian peace treaty. Until there is a cease-fire in Korea and both sides have a chance of assessing each other's sincerity in that area, it is probably useless to hope for any practical gestures by either in Europe.

BUT there are powerful influences at work to handicap the Kaesong negotiators. The mutual suspicions of the delegates are aided and provoked by external influences. General Nam Il's sharp rejection of the American reply to his complaint about neutrality violations in the Kaesong zone would seem to be an unnecessary as General Ridgway's recent ultimatum on the subject of similar violations by the Communists. The result of these constant demonstrations of dignity and indignation must be to create not merely in the minds of the negotiators, but also in the public mind, a sense of futility. Much more of it, and there will be clamour from both sides for resumed and accentuated hostilities.

THIS tendency has been abated by announcements in Washington of Communist preparations for a big, new offensive. Peking, of course, has made a great deal of the latest UN Army offensive and of the heavy bombing operations against the Communist lines in the rear, which they say is part of an American plan, carried out dishonorably against the screen of Kaesong, to get into position for a new Korean offensive to follow a final break-down in the true talks.

BRITISH and French comment on the Kaesong talks shows, as a consequence of the recent developments, some uneasiness. It was hoped that there would be definite progress in the true talks, and at least a provisional agreement, before the San Francisco conference, a month at which the Japanese peace treaty is to be offered for signature. With Russia attending, there will be delicate moments at San Francisco. If a truce in Korea is still pending and the negotiations are still subject to mutual bad temper, San Francisco may then serve to end all hopes of peace in Korea. A satisfactory settlement of that issue could, on the other hand, have a cooling influence on San Francisco.

Tel Aviv, August 22

Reports on foreign policy issues, including the Paris conference of the Palestine Conciliation Commission, the Suez blockade, the Huleh draining and the U.S. grant-in-aid were on the agenda of yesterday's Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem. The entire Cabinet was present, both Rabbi Maimon and Mr. Geri having recovered from their illness.

On the subject of the Security Council's Suez debate an official spokesman said after the meeting:

"The Government is waiting to see the results of these postponements and delays."

The spokesman revealed that the Government has not yet determined its attitude towards the P.C.C. invitation to the September 10 conference in Paris. He added that a broadcast by Mr. Sharrett in which the Foreign Minister expressed Israel's willingness to engage in peace talks did not mean that Israel had accepted the invitation, although it had so been interpreted by certain sections of the press. The broadcast, in fact, had been recorded before the invitation was received, the spokesman said.

In Tel Aviv, rationing will begin on Sunday and complete rationing will be introduced in the city with the transfer of a temporary authority, appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Municipality.

Military Searches Were Violation

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — The Egyptian admiral that their Army and Coast Guards had carried out searches of vessels passing through the Suez Canal aggravated Egypt's case rather than eases the situation, an Army spokesman said here today.

The spokesman announced that Mr. Sharrett is scheduled to leave for the U.S. next month to participate in the annual Hadassah convention opening September 14, and in a conference of the Independence Bond Drive a week later in Washington which will plan the autumn campaign.

Sharrett for U.S.

The spokesman announced that Mr. Sharrett is scheduled to leave for the U.S. next month to participate in the annual Hadassah convention opening September 14, and in a conference of the Independence Bond Drive a week later in Washington which will plan the autumn campaign.

At the M.A.C. meeting on the Gaza Road, Aluf Moshe Dayan pressed General Riley to investigate the charge that searches were being carried out by Egyptian military personnel. General Riley admitted that such searches would constitute an aggressive and hostile action."

"If I had certain knowledge that it was being committed by the armed forces of Egypt—land, sea or air, or para-military forces, including non-regular forces—I would most firmly hold that this constitutes a violation of Article 1 Para 2, and Article 2 Para 2 of the General Armistice Agreement, and would uphold the contention advanced by Israel."

"Lacking such knowledge, I see no way under the General Armistice Agreement of taking this course, even though I am convinced that the Egyptian action does not foster the objectives of the General Armistice Agreement," General Riley said.

The communiqué on the meeting follows:

The Minister of Trade and Industry reported on the results of his trip to the U.S. at the Cabinet's weekly meeting.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs commented on the Security Council's discussions of the Suez question, the invitation to the Paris conference, the grant-in-aid and the work of the British.

The Minister of Finance discussed the electricity supply and various development problems.

AFTER MIDNIGHT

The Min. of the Turkish minister in Cyprus, Mr. Yusef Jafar Mouslih, centre of bitter political controversy for many months, tendered to be received by the president of the Republic in Nicosia last night. His signature was accepted.

New Talks On Suez Blockade

NEW YORK, Wednesday (UPI). — The current high level discussions in Ankara between Turkey and Egypt strengthen the possibility that an "out of court" settlement on the Suez Canal blockade may still be reached, U.N. delegation sources said here today.

Contest between the two governments took place during the weekend, following the instruction to M. Selim Sharer, the Turkish U.N. delegate, to seek a further week's postponement of the Security Council's decision on the matter.

Diplomatic sources said M. Sharer was unable to give any details of the Ankara talks, but assured delegates "they were serious." Following that, nine Council members agreed to the postponement of the discussion, and only Britain felt it should be continued — while the U.S. delegate, Mr. Austin, in the chair for the present session abstained.

Meanwhile, some observers believe that Egypt may agree to lift the restrictions, since she would find it very difficult to flout a U.N. Security Council resolution and at the same time continue with her charges that Israel is "violating" other U.N. resolutions — especially the question of the repatriation of Arab refugees.

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THE debate in the Zionist

Congress over the unification of the several Zionist funds reflects also on the arguments for and against the

HEBREW

UNIVERSITY

abroad of the U.S.T. (the

Hebrew University, the Weizmann Institute and the Haifa Technical College). It is an open secret that the joint appeal has not been a marked success. The principal beneficiaries were originally the Haifa Technical College who wrote into the agreement a prior claim on the first moneys received, but this has now been adjusted. There were always doubts in University circles, however, about the wisdom of joining the U.S.T. These doubts have now been strongly reinforced.

The University's finances are under most severe strain. Its reserves are static, while its expenditure increases by leaps and bounds. This is due in part to rising costs, in part to the urgent need for increased facilities for students, whose numbers have doubled since the war. The added expenditure caused by the loss of the Mount Scopus buildings is a permanent drain. Nor is the University's present system of obtaining its funds any longer appropriate. In the ordinary way, universities expect to draw their revenues from students' fees (always a small proportion), from individual bequests, and from state grants. The Hebrew University is still too young to have accumulated enough bequests to cover any appreciable part of its expenditure. This deficiency can fortunately be made up by the money raised annually abroad, a form of income on which few other universities can count. But what is missing is no less than the lion's share—a suitable government grant.

This deficiency is a legacy from the Mandatory days when the Palestine Government could not or would not provide full elementary education for the Jewish population, and certainly was not concerned with promoting higher Jewish education. Meanwhile, the University has assumed new tasks to which the Government of Israel cannot be indifferent. The University has taken over from the Mandatory Government the Law School which must provide the future generation of lawyers and judges. It has launched a Medical School which before long will supply the State with physicians. All its departments provide much needed teachers to our schools. It has opened a department of public administration which will in due course become one of the principal methods of entry into the higher ranks of the Civil Service. At the very lowest estimate, the University is saving the State large sums in foreign currency that would otherwise have had to be spent on education abroad for the country's young people.

Leading members of the Government have shown an understandable interest in the future of the Haifa Technical College, primarily because of defense needs. An energetic executive has secured firm friends in America, Britain and elsewhere for the Weizmann Institute of Science, though like the Haifa institution, the Hebrew research centre is far from free of financial anxiety. Yet, the University is an essential part of the educational system of Israel, and there is no reason why it should not become a State University, though not subject to the fluctuations of government. Whether it does or not, it has fully earned a far larger annual State grant, coupled with a far larger measure of State interest in its management.

Sharett Confident
Of M.E. Peace

DENVER, Colorado, Wednesday

(UPI)—Foreign Minister Sharett, in a special broadcast recording for the World Affairs Institute of the University of Denver, said today that Israel had time and time again declared her readiness to meet her neighbors at the conference table to settle outstanding difficulties and to lay the foundation for the peace and development of the Middle East.

"We feel confident that in the end, their necessary and unswerving self-interest will lead to understanding and a lasting

peace."

The Egyptian Foreign Minis-

ter, Nafis al-Din, said in a tele-

gram to the U.N. General Sec-

retary that the big powers to respect

U.S. AMBASSADOR VIEWS NEW STATE

By TAD SZULC
U.S. Correspondent

AGAINST the background of uncertainty and strife in the Middle East, Israel emerges as a stabilizing factor and as a major democratic influence in the Middle East. This, in a nut-shell, is the opinion of Dr. James G. McDonald who spent over two years in Israel first as the Special United States representative to the Provisional Government and then as the first U.S. Ambassador to the new state.

This and other opinions ranging from a biting condemnation of Britain's policies in the Middle East to a discussion of the modern Hebrew language and a remark that Israel acts as if it were entitled to miracles — are contained in McDonald's book, "My Mission in Israel," published in New York today by Simon and Schuster.

"My Mission in Israel" is a well-documented, fact-packed report of the birth and the infancy of Israel complete with masterful sketches of the country's leaders and vignettes of outstanding non-Jewish modern personalities like Pope Pius XII. McDonald fruitfully tried to convince His Holiness of the need for a friendly relationship between Israel and the Vatican, the late Ernest Bevin (he describes him as a pathological Jew-hater) and later and likens him to Hitler. President Truman, Secretaries Acheson and Marshall and a plethora of lesser individuals who in some fashion were connected with the Middle East.

U.S. in the Middle East — but the principal fact to emerge from the 300 pages of Dr. McDonald's book is that since the last war the United States has emerged as the dominant power — but one without imperialist or selfish interests — in the Near East taking the place that Britain had held there for generations.

McDonald reserves some of his most biting and scorching criticism for the British policy in the Middle East selecting Bevin as the main target for his brickbats.

The plain fact was... that the British had not yet given convincing evidence of a genuine desire for peace in the Middle East," he writes. "On the contrary, there were those Brits who believed that if Egypt were kept occupied with Israel, it would not press so hard for British withdrawal from Suez and the Sudan. And, by generally having the Middle East in a ferment of emotion directed away from Great Britain, many tactical advantages would be gained. This view, short-sighted though it clearly was, seemed to me... to be an important influence on British policy in the area."

British Ultimatum — As an example of bad British policy towards Israel, McDonald cites the heretofore unpublicized

ed British ultimatum of January 1, 1949, threatening Israel with war, in fulfillment of the 1936 Anglo-Egyptian Treaty, if Israeli forces did not withdraw immediately from the Egyptian portion of the Negev.

But McDonald does not consider that the U.S. policy in the area had been blameless. He recalls the conflict between Truman and the State Department over support for the Palestine partition scheme in 1947, and asserts that many

Department experts and technicians are more concerned with providing their own views than supplying the Secretary and the President with an objective evaluation of events.

McDonald reported directly to Truman that he was not able to enlighten David Ben Gurion who had told him that he was at a loss to understand the U.S. policy for the Near East.

Looking ahead, McDonald does not believe that there will be a "second round" of warfare between Israel and the Arabs, and expresses the opinion that within the decade a final peace settlement will be concluded in the region — assuming that there will be no new world war.

Seittement with Arab States

The best chance for a measure of Arab-Jewish rapprochement derives from the complementary natures of the Arab and Israeli economies. The Arabs need what Israel has to offer — the outlook for cultural relations between Jews and Arabs in the near future is not bright. Nationalisms and resentments have left their mark too deeply; more important still are the totally different social and areas, however, in different ways will have in common their borrowing from and reliance on the support of the West," McDonald writes.

McDonald believes that the U.S. should support all moves for a final settlement between Israel and the Arab states.

An indefinite truce is from Israel's point of view equivalent to a death sentence to be executed at the convenience of the Arabs...

To reply that this (peace negotiations) is difficult or that the Arabs won't accept it is to confess that the Arabs can indefinitely call the tune."

McDonald holds equally

strong views on other outstanding problems in the area.

He feels that the U.S. insistence on internationalizing Jerusalem is unrealistic since

the British had been able to travel round a good deal, and to meet many of his former acquaintances from a Zionist youth movement in the United States. "They grumble a lot but they seem very happy really," he said, "and anyway they are all so busy. The only thing is, you know, I don't think that they are really as good Zionists as they used to be. They didn't really seem nearly as interested in the Movement any longer as in whether they were going to get a new road to their kibbutz. I'm sure we talk far more about it all at home."

W e happened to be walking through Tel Aviv on Tuesday afternoon because the bus queues looked so long and unpromising, and felt profoundly sympathetic as we reached the tail-end of an enormous, a simply heartbreaking, ice-queue. It seemed to struggle for miles, and many of the people in it were already heavily loaded, presumably with their other

shopping. When we reached the large truck behind which the queue began we peered inside. There wasn't even any ice. There was a second truck in front of it, and no ice in that either. The people seemed unaccountably cheerful. It was just outside the Habimah, and the whole party was waiting to get into the trucks for Dallas.

E VERY Israeli loves to get on a bus and go somewhere else, and there are few excuses as good as the Dance Festival. On Tuesday, the pilgrimage to Dallas took on such proportions that if you happened to be travelling in the opposite direction you not only couldn't make any headway, you felt just plain foolish. To accommodate the 40,000 ticket-holders, Dahlia levelled and terraced 23 kilometres of sitting space in dozens of rows across the sloping hillside. At intervals there were steps loosely built of stone. There was not enough stone, or labour, to shore up the whole length of the natural benches with stone, and we asked whether they wouldn't crumble. Crumble? they said. Why, of course. There was hardly anything left of the seats by the time the audience went home again. The Festival is, of course, bigger and better every year, and in the course the whole country may

be as deserted on Dallas night as all of Tel Aviv but Allenby Road used to be during the great Purim processions.

W E met a young American tourist the other day who had been able to travel round a good deal, and to meet many of his former acquaintances from a Zionist youth movement in the United States. "They grumble a lot but they seem very happy really," he said, "and anyway they are all so busy. The only thing is, you know, I don't think that they are really as good Zionists as they used to be. They didn't really seem nearly as interested in the Movement any longer as in whether they were going to get a new road to their kibbutz. I'm sure we talk far more about it all at home."

W HENEVER Congress delegations run out of a subject on which to disagree, which is not often, they can fall back on the new Herzl portrait by the Jerusalem artist Litvinovsky, which is hung in the hall. Its bold style and colour scheme is almost as far removed in spirit from the smoothly conventional black eyes, beard and frock-coat as the 23rd Congress is from the First, and not unnaturally there are delegates who feel more at home with Herzl on the bridge in the accepted manner, and a Zionism that made no demands on

your personal life. Even for those prepared to move with the times, however, matters are made more difficult by the fact that no lighting has been provided for the picture so that it is practically invisible from most angles.

A reader who has been

checking up on missing

comics in the paper writes

that he was greatly surprised

the other day to see a head-

line that ran "Talks With Mapam Begin," because he had automatically inserted what

appeared to him to be the

missing comma between "Ma-

pan" and "Begin." To get both Herzl and Mapam in the same coalition seemed to him a little extravagant.

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